

1 June 1956

Executive Registry

5. 3380

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. Leo Cherne, Meeting with the DCI on 31 May 1956

1. Mr. Leo Cherne is Executive Director, Research Institute of America, and an official of the International Rescue Committee. He was chairman of the "Doevan Emergency Commission" which IRC activated to focus attention upon communist redefection campaigns. The meeting with DCI was arranged at Mr. Cherne's request to report on "redefection".

2. In line with his belief that emergency measures are needed to counter redefection activities in the USA, Mr. Cherne reported that IRC has set up a special 24-hour-a-day telephone service in the New York City area offering to counsel any refugees who fear repatriation activity. Mr. Cherne plans to extend this project into Connecticut with the cooperation of local police and civic groups.

3. Mr. Cherne reported great difficulty in soliciting funds for IRC from private sources, due to public apathy and related to the growing detente. He advised that funds from projects under the State/U.S. Escapee Program do not cover IRC countering the "redefection" campaign in the U.S.A. In response to an observation by the DCI, Mr. Cherne indicated that Tolstoy Foundation, like IRC, may be confronted with the same problem: no established congregation of givers.

4. Mr. Cherne indicated hope for DCI interest in the following matters: (a) the entry into the USA of Gneslaw Milew, a former Polish Cultural Attaché who defected in Paris several years ago and, according to Mr. Cherne, is now a top "redefection" target; (b) support for IRC projects covering refugees in Vietnam, which are now under consideration in RCA and USIA; and (c) pressure upon Congress to obtain adoption of the President's recommended amendments to the McCarran-Walter Act.

5. The matters proposed by Mr. Cherne for the Director's attention, such as the funding for countering "redefection" from the U.S.A. and action in the [redacted] appear to require special staff study before any action is taken. Copies of this memorandum are therefore made available to the appropriate Glandstone Services elements and the Legislative Liaison Officer for consideration.

Distribution:

Orig - DCI

1 - Leg. Liaison

1 - G/EE
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DATE

1 June 1956

DATE

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COMMENTS

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Legislative Liaison

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